[26th February 1929

Utilization of surplus funds of local bodies.

* 1498 *Q.*—Rao Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether with reference to the surplus funds of local bodies the Government have ever considered the question of permitting local bodies—

(*a*) to invest their surplus funds in the co-operative land mortgage banks at rates ranging from five to six per cent interest;

(*b*) to give advances from those funds to the ryots through the Revenue Department on lines similar to those that the Government themselves advance to them under the Land Improvement Loans Act and the Agriculturists Loans Act at a rate of interest not exceeding six per cent; and

(*c*) to invest them in certain specified banks registered under the Indian Companies Act, such as the Indian Bank or the Central Bank of India and if so, with what result?

A.—(*a*) Yes. The matter has been deferred till the establishment of a central co-operative land mortgage bank.

(*b*) A request of the President, District Board, Coimbatore, in the matter is under the consideration of the Government.

(*c*) Yes. The question has been deferred for the present.

Excise

Number of liquor shops closed and opened in 1927–28 *in the Presidency.*

* 1499 *Q.*—Mr. C. GOPALA MENON: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of liquor shops of different kinds opened in each district during 1927–28; and

(*b*) the number of liquor shops of different kinds closed during 1927–28?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) A statement [a] is laid on the table.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"May I know, Sir, with reference to the appendix, whether the hon. Minister can give any reasons why such a large number as 22 new shops have been opened in the Coimbatore district in the year under consideration?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR:—"I have called for information with regard to that."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO:—"May I know whether any new areas have been added during the year under reference to the areas in which total prohibition is enforced?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR:—"There is no old area in which there is total prohibition now, and there is therefore no question of new areas."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO:—"Was there any area in which total prohibition was experimented last year?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR:—"No."

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[a] Printed as Appendix IV on page 174 infra.